

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An automotive interior trim assembly for coupling to an automobile, comprising:

a substrate member forming at least a part of a structural support of the trim assembly, said substrate member having a front surface adapted to face the interior of the automobile and a back surface adapted to face opposite said front surface;

a connecting member integrally molded with said substrate member and extending away from said back surface, said connecting member having an aperture formed therein; and

a grommet integrally molded in said aperture and adapted to secure a wire to said connecting member so as to prevent movement of the wire with respect to said substrate member.

2. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said substrate member has a hardness and said grommet has a hardness that is relatively lower than the hardness of said substrate member.

3. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 further comprising:

a cover member overlying at least a portion of said front surface and adapted to provide a soft feel to the trim assembly, said cover member having a hardness that is relatively lower than a hardness of said substrate member.
4. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said substrate member is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic olefin, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, styrene maleic anhydride, and polycarbonate/acrylonitrile butadiene styrene alloy.
5. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 4, wherein said grommet is formed from a thermoplastic elastomer.
6. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said grommet is formed from a thermoplastic elastomer.
7. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said connecting member completely encapsulates said aperture.
8. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said aperture includes a slot portion extending to an edge of said connecting member, the wire insertable in said grommet through said slot portion.

9. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said grommet includes a first slit therethrough and extending at least partially across said grommet, said slit adapted to secure the wire to said connecting member when the wire is inserted through said slit.

10. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 9, wherein said grommet includes a second slit therethrough and extending at least partially across said grommet, said second slit being substantially perpendicular to said first slit to form a plurality of radial fingers, said first and second slits adapted to secure the wire to said connecting member when the wire is inserted through said first and second slits.

11. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 configured as an instrument panel for an automobile.

12. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 configured as a door panel for an automobile.

13. (Original) A method of forming an automotive interior trim assembly in a two-shot molding operation, the method comprising:

molding a substrate member having a connecting member with an aperture by injecting a first curable material in a first shot of the molding operation;
and

molding a grommet in the aperture of the connecting member by injecting a second curable material into the aperture during the second shot of the molding operation.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein injecting first and second curable materials comprises:

injecting a first curable material having a hardness; and

injecting a second curable material having a hardness that is relatively lower than the hardness of the first curable material.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

injecting the second curable material onto the substrate member to form a cover member opposite to the connecting member during the second shot of the molding operation.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

forming a first slit in the grommet so that a wire is insertable through the grommet.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

forming a second slit in the grommet substantially perpendicular to the first slit to form a plurality of radial fingers.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first curable material is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic olefin, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, styrene maleic anhydride, and polycarbonate/acrylonitrile butadiene styrene alloy.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 18, wherein the second curable material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 13, wherein the second curable material is a thermoplastic elastomer.